

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 as with the following amended paragraph:

-- The resultant relatively complex beam profile may need selective shaping before it can efficiently be used in an optical scanner. Some methods of providing such beam shaping are described in our co-pending US patent application 08/268,982, filed June 30, 1994, now US Patent Number [] 5,742,038, the teachings of which are incorporated herein by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6 as with the following amended paragraph:

-- Yet a further option is to provide a multi-focus lens for the outgoing laser beam, thereby providing that the outgoing laser beam may be focused on an object in a first predetermined working range and simultaneously on a second object in a second predetermined working range. Details are disclosed in our co-pending patent application Serial No. [] 08/829,718 filed March 31, 1997, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. --